

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9396
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

S E C R E T QUITO 6421

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: PINT, PBOR, EC, PE
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTRY BRIEFS SUPREME COUNCIL ON CONNECTION
BETWEEN NATIONAL SECURITY RETORNO

1. DIRGEN OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS HERNAN VEINTIMILLA DISCLOSED
TO POLCOUNS SEPTEMBER 13 THAT ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER GUSTAVO
RUALES HAD BRIEFED THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT (ADMIRAL
POVEDA AND GENERAL DURAN ARCENTALES WERE PRESENT) ON
SEPTEMBER 8 REGARDING THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE SUCCESSFUL
CULMINATION OF THE RETORNO PROCESS AND ECUADOR'S SECURITY
SITUATION.

2. ACCORDING TO VEINTIMILLA, RUALES PRESENTED THE FONOFF
ANALYSIS THAT THE SOUTHERN CONE SITUATION WAS EXPLOSIVE AND
THAT THE BEAGLE CHANNEL DISPUTE COULD PRECIPITATE A SERIES
OF EVENTS WHICH COULD CONCEIVABLY INVOLVE ECUADOR IN
HOSTILITIES WITH PERU. THE CHANCE OF THIS OCCURING WOULD
BE DIMINISHED IF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND ECUADOR WERE
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GOOD. IF IT DID OCCUR, ECUADOR WOULD HAVE TO DEPEND HEAVILY
UPON THE US FOR DIPLOMATIC AND PERHAPS SECURITY SUPPORT.
RUALES OBSERVED THAT RELATIONS CURRENTLY BETWEEN
THE US AND ECUADOR WERE THE BEST IN PERHAPS TWO DECADES.
HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE US WAS INTENSELY INTERESTED
AT THE MOMENT IN TWO AREAS WITH REGARD TO ECUADOR: ITS
HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD AND ITS PROMISE TO RETURN TO CONSTI-

TUTIONAL RULE. SHOULD EITHER OF THESE FIELDS BECOME PROBLEMATIC, HE WARNED THAT RELATIONS WITH THE US WOULD COOL AND ECUADOR MIGHT FIND ITSELF WITHOUT ITS MOST POWERFUL ALLY.

3. RUEALES TOLD VEINTIMILLA THAT DURING THIS PART OF THE DISCUSSION POVEDA STRONGLY ENDORSED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY VIEW. DURAN, HOWEVER, WAS RESERVED, WHICH RUEALES TOOK AS ACQUIESCENCE. ON A RELATED THEME, RUEALES EXPRESSED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY VIEW THAT THE CHARGES OF INTERVENTION LEVELLED AGAINST THE EMBASSY BY POLITICAL PARTISANS WERE BASELESS AND THAT THE EMBASSY WAS NOT EXCEEDING ITS DIPLOMATIC LIMITS IN MAKING ITS VIEWS KNOWN TO ECUADOREAN POLITICIANS. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE GOE NOT TROUBLE ITSELF WITH PURSUING THE MATTER. BOTH POVEDA AND DURAN ENDORSED THIS APPROACH.

4. COMMENT: THE TYING OF NATIONAL SECURITY TO THE RETORNO PROCESS WOULD SEEM TO BE A POWERFUL ARGUMENT IN PERSUADING THE MILITARY TO CONTINUE WITH THE ELECTORAL PROCESS. UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT THOSE DETERMINED TO BLOCK THE PROCESS WILL HEED THE DANGER SUGGESTED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. DURAN'S SILENCE IN RESPONDING TO THIS APPROACH SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS ACQUIESCENCE AS IT WAS BY RUEALES.

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